

authority on this issue. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to include the OCS moratorium language in the fiscal year 2006 Interior and Environment Appropriations legislation. Specifically, we ask you to use the language in Sections 107, 108 and 109, Division E, Department of the Interior and Related Agencies of the fiscal year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447). These sections restrict oil and gas activities within the OCS in the Georges Bank-North Atlantic planning area, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic planning area, Eastern Gulf of Mexico planning area, Northern, Southern and Central California planning areas, and Washington and Oregon planning area.

Once again, we encourage the Subcommittee to support these important provisions, which represent over 20 years of bipartisan agreement on the importance of protecting the environmentally and economically valuable coastal areas of the United States. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lois Capps, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Jeff Miller, Jim Davis, Michael Michaud, Madeleine Bordallo, Ginny Brown-Waite, Jay Inslee, Frank LoBiondo, Rob Simmons, Mark Foley, Jim Langevin, Ed Case, Jim McGovern, Sherrod Brown, Chris Smith, Dennis Cardoza, Frank Pallone, Jr., G.K. Butterfield, Tom Feeney.

Pete Stark, Robert Wexler, Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, Katherine Harris, Jerry Nadler, Carolyn Maloney, Alcee Hastings, Mike Honda, Hilda Solis, Grace Napolitano, Mark Kennedy, Brian Baird, Susan Davis, Sam Farr, Clay Shaw, Christopher Shays, Rush Holt, Betty McCollum, Ellen Tauscher.

Barbara Lee, Dennis Moore, Raúl Grijalva, Chris Van Hollen, Rahm Emanuel, Nick Rahall, Loretta Sánchez, Tom Allen, Anthony Weiner, Jan Schakowsky, Brad Sherman, Jim McDermott, Kendrick Meek, Bob Etheridge, Dale Kildee, George Miller, Donald Payne, Tom Lantos, Earl Blumenauer, Maxine Waters.

Wayne Gilchrest, Rosa DeLauro, Nancy Pelosi, Richard Neal, Dennis Kucinich, Ed Markey, Henry Waxman, Michael McNulty, Michael Bilirakis, Jane Harman, Bart Stupak, Robert Menendez, Barney Frank, Lynn Woolsey, Luis Guterrez, Jim Saxton, Lehtinen, William Delahunt, Peter DeFazio, Mike Thompson.

Juanita Millender-McDonald, David Wu, Carolyn Maloney, Bob Filner, Mario Diaz-Balart, Robert Andrews, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Xavier Becerra, Howard Berman, Walter Jones, Connie Mack, Rep. Diane Watson, Doris Matsui, Linda Sánchez, Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Ric Keller, Adam Schiff, Corrine Brown, Jim Costa, Joe Baca, Bill Pascrell, and Eliot Engel.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, these letters indicate the bipartisan, bicameral support to protect the current OCS moratoria. Moving in the direction of ending the moratoria will bring unnecessary opposition to the overall objective.

Residents of coastal States should not have to fear the specter of oil rigs off their beaches. Again, I thank the Chair and ranking member for their leadership on the bill, and I look forward to working with them. I hope they will join me in protecting our precious coastlines.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted after I speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I also ask unanimous consent that I may bring in a few boxes of regulations about which I am going to speak on higher education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1261 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

## WOMEN IN IRAN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, a big event is taking place in another country tomorrow. The Iranian elections are going to take place for the presidency and leadership in Iran. This is a bogus election. The people of Iran are not having a fair choice. A number of people are calling for a boycott of elections in Iran, which is unusual for us but not for them, because the whole slate of those who have been nominated has been selected by the ruling council of Iran.

If you were even going to be on the ballot, you had to have been selected by the ruling council. So there may be eight people running for president; some have dropped out, others added in. They all had to be appointed, actually, to be candidates.

I wanted to draw this point to the body that there is not just a nuclear crisis going on in Iran; there is a human crisis that is taking place in that country. These elections that will be reported on are not elections. They are appointments that are taking place. It is in many respects a fairly porous society, and yet there are severe restrictions placed on freedom of speech, on press, assembly, association, and religion.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has concluded that "the government of Iran engages in or tolerates systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, including prolonged detention and executions based primarily or entirely upon religion of the accused." I just met with members of the Ba'hai faith who talked about the severe persecution of the Ba'hai in Iran.

But the specific item I wanted to point out even prior to this election is the gender apartheid that takes place in Iran. I received this recently from the Alliance for Iranian Women.

The State Department has reported that the testimony of a woman in Iran is worth half that of a man in court. The blood money paid to the family of

a female crime victim is half the sum paid for a man. A married woman must obtain the written consent of her husband before traveling outside the country.

In his book, Ayatollah Khomeini requires that young girls should be married before they reach the age of puberty. A woman does not have the right to divorce her husband, but a man can divorce his wife anytime he wishes and without her knowledge. A man is allowed to marry four wives and have as many temporary wives as he wants and may end the contract at any time with a temporary wife on a temporary marriage. Temporary marriage is often viewed as the Islamic Republic's way of sanctioning male promiscuity outside of marriage. Mothers do not get custody of their children when husbands divorce them. A widow does not get the custody of her children after the death of her husband. The children will be given to the parental grandparents, and the mother has no right to visitation. If the husband has no family, the mullah of the community takes custody of the child. Daughters get half the inheritance than that of their sons.

I point this gender apartheid out because when I heard about it, I was stunned. I wanted other Members of the body to realize this is taking place.

The greater focus of what is taking place in Iran has been primarily on nuclear weapons development. But there is a humanitarian and a human crisis and certainly a human rights crisis in that country.

I have come here shortly before the Iranian presidential elections. These elections hold no hope of change for the people of Iran. They are elections that will be boycotted and protested, and they are elections that have been manipulated by the supreme leader and the council of guardians. Just last week women in Iran staged a sit-in to protest the disqualification of women from running in the elections.

The people of Iran want change. That change will not come through these elections. But it will come through internal, strong demonstrations, and it will come through strong international support for the very people who protest and boycott these elections.

Iran has a young and vibrant base that, with the support of the international community, could promote major change in Iran and the region. I encourage the Iranian-American community to unite, build strong coalitions to further promote democracy and fundamental respect for human rights in Iran. I encourage this body to support democracy building, civil society building in and for Iran.

I encourage other Members to continue to speak up on behalf of the oppressed in Iran and voice strong support for the people who so desperately want to see democracy flourish.

This is a key issue and a timely one. These elections are taking place soon. People need to know this is a bogus set of elections.